

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

January 21, 2004

6:15 p.m.

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

MINUTES

Mark Reshkin opened the meeting at 6:19 and welcomed all who attended. After introductions, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDANCE

Board members present: Henry Bliss (Porter Co. Citizen), Dorreen Carey (City of Gary), Edgar Corns (Agriculture), Dale Engquist (Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore), Paul Labus (Local Land Trusts), Charlotte Read (Environment), Dr. Mark Reshkin (Universities), Don Wadleigh (USACOE), Liz McCloskey (USFWS), Bill Moran (NRCS), David Pilz (City of Valparaiso), Brian Miller (Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant), Stephen Mosher (Port of Indiana), Tim Morgan (Local Parks and Recreation), Tammy Steinhagen (Citizen), Kevin Breitzke (NIRPC)

Board members absent: Rudolph Clay (Lake County Commissioner), John Evans (Porter County Commissioner), William Hager (LaPorte County Commissioner), Tom Keilman (Industry and Business), Judy Beck (EPA), Niles Parker (IDOC), Jack Hires (Lake Michigan Aquatic Resources), Dionne Wisniewski (Tourism), Jim Juricic (INDOT), and, J. Allen Johnson (Lake County Citizen), John Smolar (Lake Dependent Uses), John Heidbreder (Historical Resources), Ian Steele (Town of Michiana Shores)

Other interested parties present: Ken Purze

Lake Michigan Coastal Program Staff present: Mike Molnar (LMCP Program Manager), Jenny Kintzele (LMCP Program Specialist)

Approval of Minutes

The October 15 and December 10th meeting minutes were approved.

Mission Statement Development Update

Dr. Reshkin presented the results of the Mission Statement Development workgroup. The Board discussed two mission statements and moved and voted to approve the following: "The Coastal Advisory Board provides a public forum for diverse stakeholders to assist with the implementation of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program."

Sea Grant Presentation – Brian Miller

Brian Miller, Assistant Director Illinois Indiana Sea Grant, made a presentation on the functions of Sea Grant and how it interacts with the LMCP. Brian stated that the mission of the Sea Grant program is Science Serving America's Coast, specifically research and education. The Sea Grant program is based on Thematic areas (Aquaculture, Coastal Community Development, Biological Resources (Aquatic Nuisance Species, Traditional Fisheries Issues), and Water Quality. The Illinois Indiana Sea Grant program has 23 people on staff in both Illinois and Indiana.

The Coastal Community Development thematic area is the primary thematic area and focuses on how growth can occur while protecting natural resources. Sea Grant developed the Planning with POWER (Protecting Our Water Environmental Resources) program to address these issues. The Planning with

POWER program ties together watershed planning and land use planning to improve protection of resources.

Brian mentioned the Wingspread Tristate Regional Planning Accord. Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana signed on to this accord that promotes three main tenets. The issues addressed are transportation, economic development, and water resource usage. The group is trying to develop a sustainable water usage plan for the area.

The Sea Grant program also has a grant program. The Sea Grant grant program has a request for proposals every two years for grants. Brian recommended that the LMCP forward grant applications that are more inline with Sea Grant goals. \$350,000 of the budget goes to research; and \$300-400,000 is spent on Education and Outreach.

Officer Selection Discussion

Program Manager Mike Molnar presented the procedure for nominating and electing officers for the Coastal Advisory Board. Officers hold the position for a term of one year, while Board members are appointed for a two-year term. Molnar read the duties of each officer and solicited nominations.

The current 2003-2004 Executive Board is:

Chair - Dr. Mark Reshkin
Vice Chair - Charlotte Read
Secretary - J. Allen Johnson

The nominations made at this meeting for the 2004-2005 Executive Board are:

Chair - Dr. Mark Reshkin
Vice Chair - Charlotte Read
Secretary - Dale Engquist

Officer Responsibilities

Chair:

- Ensures the effective action of the Coastal Advisory Board;
- Develops agendas for meetings in concert with the DNR LMCP;
- Presides at board meetings;
- Recommends to the Board which, if any, committees are to be established. Seeks volunteers for committees and coordinates individual board member assignments. Makes sure each committee has a chairperson, and stays in touch with chairpersons to be sure that their work is carried out; identifies committee recommendations that should be presented to the full board;
- Determines whether special Board meetings are necessary and convenes the Board accordingly; and
- Ensures that board matters are handled properly, including preparation of pre-meeting materials, committee functioning, and coordination with DNR LMCP.

Vice Chair:

- Serves as the Chair, in the Chair's absence;
- Assists the Chair in Board operation

Secretary:

- Maintains a record of all minutes and other Board actions;

- Serves as the Board expert on procedural and policy issues; and
- Serves as the Chair in the Chair's and Vice Chair's absence

2003 Round II Grant Cycle

The opening date for the 2003 Round II RFP is February 20, 2004. The closing date is March 31, 2004. The CAB discussed the structure of the LMCP grant program for the remaining funds. There will be \$40,000 set aside for a small grants program that are short term and shall not exceed \$5,000 for each award. In addition, the LMCP made \$600,000 available for the regular grant program for projects up to \$100,000 and for 18 month durations. The LMCP set a grant workshop for February 25, 2004 at the Dunes State Park Nature Center. The grant workshop will provide a forum for potential applicants to learn how to fill out the application form and ask questions regarding potential projects.

The members of the Board discussed the best way to get information regarding Coastal Grants disseminated to the appropriate parties.

Jenny Kintzele stated that the grant guidance document was updated to better reflect the types of projects that the CAB set as priorities. The application document was revised as well to simplify the process and address some technical issues.

Molnar stated that the project scoring process will be revamped for the 2005 Coastal Grant cycle. The LMCP will seek input from the CAB members and the technical review team.

Public Comment

The Chair moved the public comment period to allow Ken Purze to speak before he had to depart. Ken stated that he would be willing to help in any way that he could. He expressed an interest in serving on the Board. Dr. Reshkin also stated that Ian Steele resigned due to losing his reelection bid.

CAB Meeting Timing

Molnar stated that the current meeting structure is to meet every three months with special meetings as appropriate. It has been discussed that the CAB might benefit from a more frequent meeting schedule or a steering committee that could help steer some of the administrative items. The Board discussed the issue of having a steering committee and the makeup of such a body. It was suggested that members email their thoughts on the matter and the Board will discuss the issue at the next meeting. Dorreen Carey expressed an interest in not increasing the bureaucracy by adding another body; rather the CAB could establish ad hoc committees as needed. Tim Morgan commented that he liked the idea of having a steering committee composed of the Officers and one representative from each of the three counties.

Program Update

Molnar presented an update of other LMCP issues. The 6217 workgroups are proceeding well. The Urban group will meet several more times. The Federal Consistency process was approved by the Natural Resources Commission at their last meeting and the nonrule policy document will go into effect March 1. Molnar explained that Federal Consistency conforms direct and indirect federal activities with state law to the extent practicable. Federal Consistency is a legal acknowledgement under federal law of the importance of respect for state law. The document will be posted to the LMCP website.

Molnar stated that LaPorte County Park Department closed on 35 acres of land that will be added to Creek Ridge County Park. The project was funded from a 2001 Great Lakes Coastal Restoration Grant. Tim Morgan provided some information about the property.

Next Meeting

The priority issue for the next meeting will be officer selection. The next meeting will be April 21 at Redmill County Park. Tim Morgan promised to provide coffee, tea, and hot chocolate and snacks for the next meeting. The park is located at 0185 South Holmesville Road LaPorte, Indiana

Announcements

The LMCP will hold a Coast Week planning meeting February 19th at the Dunes State Park Nature Center from 10-12.

Adjournment

There was a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Minutes prepared by Mike Molnar